TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

February 8, 2005 LB 53

SENATOR SMITH: Okay. Now, is it your desire to restore basically everything back to the way it was, including voting? Or is that...I understand that LB 53 is only about voting. But once an offender, a convicted person, completes the sentence, should there be anything left to consider upon the completion of the sentence?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I don't understand your question, Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: When you want to restore full...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Are you asking me, do I think all rights should be restored,...

SENATOR SMITH: Yes.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...even though the bill only speaks to the voting rights?

SENATOR SMITH: Right.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: No, not necessarily. I don't even want to go there, because that's...my focus is really on the right to vote. It's a basic right of citizenship. Now, I know that there are some people maybe following me who are going to talk more to that issue that you're talking about. But I don't...I mean, it's okay to talk about it, but that...I don't want to get it confused with what we're trying to do in this bill. There are some people who commit crimes when they're young, and that are, you know, forever precluded from doing certain things in life, when it was one of those mistakes that youth often make. And we could talk about that, but not in this context of this bill, because all this is talking about is your basic right to vote.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay. So does the right to vote...I mean, obviously, through LB 53, it rises to a higher level of acceptability. Why the right to vote, compared to other rights?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Well, the right to vote is basic. It's a